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POSTED

September 26, 2013

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
Clerk's Office
Post Office Drawer 111649
Columbia, SC 29211-1649

Reference: Notice of Public Night Hearing Docket No 2013-201-WS
Utilities Services of South Carolina, Inc. Adjustment of Rates & Charges.

Dear Sir or Madam:

My name is Stephen Baker and I live in the Charwood subdivision in West Columbia South Carolina at 110 Partridge Hill Drive, I have lived there since 1992. Utilities Services provides water for the subdivision. Though their letter stating requested reasons for rate adjustment, those reasons and improvements were not accomplished in our subdivision and appeared to be done to comply with local authority having jurisdiction.

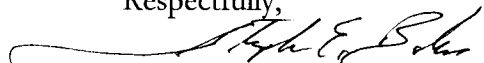
My objections to increased rates are as follows:

1. Although there are fire hydrants in our subdivision, we have been repeatedly told these are for drain and backwashing water line only. Utilities painted them black to highlight the point.
2. Due to there being no fire hydrants to connect pumper trucks to fight fires, to date at least six homes have caught fire and four burnt to the ground as the pumper truck have to leave fire go to pond and pull water.
3. During extended power outages of a day or more; we lose water as pumping station does not have a back-up power source other than a plug connection for a mobile generator that is never connected.

My subdivision is the only one I have ever lived in where two separate companies furnish water and sewer. This equates to usually a higher fee than normal for sewer in fact the fee more than doubled when the City of Cayce took over the sewer and increased fee from \$21.00 to \$48.00. I only include this as normally sewer rates are closely linked with water rates, but not in our subdivision, based on proposed rates we will rapidly be nearing \$100.00 for water and sewer in a month.

I looked at Utilities web page to find how many areas are served by their company in SC. I believe it was five. The hearings they are holding, none are near the West Columbia Service area I am not driving to Anderson or York. I ask you to consider their rate adjustment and compare it with their lack of service to customer on initial installation as well as during power outages.

Respectfully,



Stephen Baker -110 Partridge Hill Drive -West Columbia SC – 29172 803-608-5377

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OCT 10 2013

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CLERK'S OFFICE